

HHBC



# I Peter 2: 13-17

PART II of II

Commands with respect to: GOVERNMENT & AUTHORITY

Verses 15, 16, 17



# Outline for today: 1 Peter 2:15,16,17

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**I. REVIEW OF LAST WEEK'S 13-14 conclusions**

**II. Next, we'll look at HOW we are able to fulfill these high commands. We have some special tools as New Born ones in Christ.**

**III. Then, we'll look at these Believer's background; how they were suffering among their Galatia/Cappadocia/Asia/Bithynia unbelieving neighbors**

**IV. Breakdown of Verses 15, 16 & 17: *doctrine and definitions***

**V. Final Tie-Together of Verse 17: *and conclusions***

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## REVIEW OF LAST WEEK'S VS. 13-14:

- I. God has all authority, and has shared some authority with earthly Governments
- II. Those Governments have God's ordained power to punish/terrorize evil (criminality) = **PURPOSE I**  
(A.) There is nothing in scripture regarding government's rehabilitation of criminality, only punishment
- III. The Born-Again one is to submit him/herself to the authorities regardless of the quality of the authority
- IV. Submission to authorities should impel authority to **PURPOSE II**: the praise/commendation to Born-again ones who DO GOOD
- V. Last week, we concentrated on Government's responsibility, this week we look at our responsibility  
(A.) Our Responsibility in vs. 13-17 is to:

**DO RIGHT**

**SUBMIT (v.13)**

**ACT AS FREE MEN**

*DO NOT USE FREEDOM AS CLOAK FOR EVIL, BUT AS BONDSMEN OF GOD*

**HONOR ALL PEOPLE**

**LOVE THE BROTHERHOOD**

**FEAR GOD**

**HONOR THE KING**

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## HOW DO WE ACCOMPLISH ALL THESE COMMANDS? :

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- The Christian is not of this world; He/She has been TRANSFERRED in the Kingdom of Christ
- He is a citizen of Heaven and his/her only relation to this world is as an emissary of Christ and His Heavenly kingdom;
- The kingdoms of earth are given to Satan under the temporary permissive Will of God for His purposes in the Church Age;
- The Christian is related to the world only as He/she is related to the world THROUGH Christ.
- We are not of this world just as Christ is not of this world
- We are truly strangers and sojourners here in this planet and our association is With Him up there.

[ADAPTED FROM L.SPERRY CHAFER, GRACE: AN EXPOSITION OF GOD'S MARVELOUS GIFT, 1922]

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- We are not under the Law System: *Rom. 10:4 'Christ is the end of the law..' Rom 6:14 'Not under law but under grace'*
- **We ARE UNDER PURE GRACE**

*The Law Formula =*

**DO THIS!!**

*Addressee: CHILDREN*

**YOU WILL BE BLESSED**

**The Grace Formula =**

**BLESSED WITH EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING**

*Addressee: Adult Sons*

**THIS DO, because you are blessed**

[ L.S. CHAFER: GRACE- AN EXPOSITION OF GOD'S MARVELOUS GIFTS ]



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- UNDER THE LAW COVENANT: you only had your flesh and will to accomplish it; there was no permanent indwelling of H.S. in the Law age;
- UNDER PURE GRACE: In this Church Age, the commands are Much Higher than under Law; they include thoughts and motivations of the heart;
- Imperative commands under grace are **SUPERHUMAN** and heavenly obligations;
- HOWEVER, in this age by grace, God provides **SUPERNATURAL** sufficiency to carry them out.

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Purpose I: Authority is given to governments by God to punish/be a terror to evil- (LAST WEEK)

Purpose II: Government should commend/praise those who do right- (THIS WEEK)

- Today's lesson has us on the 'Doing right'- positive side of Government's attention, not on the negative side: ***punishment/death***
- How do we do right by government?
- SUBMIT to the authorities 'as free' ones; Honor the King; Render dues, tributes, taxes to Caesar... lead quiet peaceable lives
- HERE IS SOME OF THE BACKGROUND & SUFFERING PETER'S SCATTERED BELIEVERS WERE FACING:
- The Gentile pagans of the day would accuse Christians of lack of allegiance to the Roman authorities, they would snitch on them for seeming to be ignoring Roman laws & customs
- The Jews would observe Jewish Christians as Mosaic Law breakers— and they couldn't understand how Jewish Believers could count themselves among the Gentile Believers
- Note on how William Kelly (1821-1906) describes this situation:



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## Purpose II: Government should commend/praise those who do right

It was an early and common reproach among Gentiles that Christians must be atheists because they turned from idols; and no image of gold, silver, stone, or wood, nor picture of man's device were seen in their assemblies.

The Jews well knew that this was just because a living and true God had won them from such vanities to serve Him; But bitterly jealous were they themselves that Christians did not become proselytes of the Law, instead believing in His risen Son, Jesus the Deliverer, and waiting for His coming again from the heavens; and still more furious were they that any of the stock of Abraham (Jewish believers) should have the same faith and hope of the uncircumcised. [WILLIAM KELLY, THE EPISTLES OF PETER; BIBLE TRUTH PUBLISHERS]

- Peter's purpose then, was to have these Christians submit to the authorities, live right, and silence the heathen criticism //





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## Verse 15:

- **“That you may silence:”** the Greek word for silence is strong, to muzzle (as in muzzling an ox); REDUCE to silence [WUEST]
- **“ignorance”:** in Greek is the word for an agnostic in English usage; lack of knowledge, reason, reflection and intelligence about the things of God; not lack of acquaintance, but lack of understanding
- Here is how J.N. Darby describes the predicament these sojourning believers were in:

***The mind of men, hostile to His name, sought to bring disgrace upon it, by attributing to Christians the evil conduct which they themselves followed without remorse, WHILE AT THE SAME time complaining that they do not go with them in the same excesses and disorder.***

- An excellent verse that is compatible with what Peter is urging these sojourners to do:

“LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE MEN IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS, AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN. *MAT. 5:16*”



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## Verse 16: ACT as Free men

- Who is Free
- We Are: in Christ . . . Freedom from the Sin Nature; Slavery to sin

*32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." 33 They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, 'You will become free'?"*

*34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. 36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. John 8:32-36*

**It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. Gal. 5:1**

- All those without Christ are not free—they are slaves to their sins, and THE Sin Nature



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## Verse 16: cont. . . . Who is NOT Free?

- Freedom in scripture: is never do as you please; ability to act completely independently; the desires and needs of the Sin Nature are always too great to be independent of it. Also: freedom is not freedom from service;
- What Freedom is: **A CHANGE OF MASTERS** [MERRYMAN & MCCALLEY]
- True freedom = (ironically) when we live as slaves to Christ. [RICHISON]
- Dr. Richison gives the following examples of philosophers in the pagan world who seemed to know every man is truly a slave intuitively:

Seneca: ***"No one is free who is a slave to his body."***

Cicero: ***"We are the servants of the law that we may be able to be free."***

Plutarch: ***"Every bad man is a slave."***



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## Verse 16: We are free in Christ only do not abuse it

- Do not use freedom as a covering for evil. Covering = veil. Or a cloak. Using your freedom from the law and Sin Nature to be a pretext for doing evil is the idea.
- Instead, use your freedom to serve God
- Bondslave = **doulos** serving God freely in love, because of your love for God. Deuteronomy gives this picture:

It shall come about if he (*a Hebrew slave who served you 6 years, released from service in year 7*) says to you, 'I will not go out from you,' **because he loves you and your household**, since he fares well with you; then you shall take an awl and pierce it through his ear into the door, and he shall be your servant forever. Also you shall do likewise to your maidservant. Deut. 15: 16-17





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## Verse 17: Honor, Love & Fear:

### 1. Honor all people:

(a.) Honor = *timaō* = giving the proper estimate of a person; recognize the value of a person; fix a value on someone. (Imperative No. 1: Aor. Active imp.)

(b.) How are all people valuable?

***So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.*** Gen 1:27

**For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. . . *and* . . . But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.** Rom 5:6,8

(c.) Honor: an attitude of reverence to those God places in authority over us. As also towards those who stand in any place earthy dignity or those who have been given wealth, outstanding ability, or have risen honorable positions among their peers. To all men (for they are in the image of God). Leave to the base the despising of others. [WM. R. NEWELL]





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## 2. Love the Brotherhood:

- (a.) Love = ***agapaō*** = conscientious affection, good will, benevolence, brotherly love to those IN CHRIST
- (b.) The unselfish, giving 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13 love
- (c.) Imperative No. 2: Present, active, imperative command

***“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.”*** John 13:34,35

**For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.** Gal 5:13. [Note: the parallel to our verse 16 in I Peter 2 here....}



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Verse 17: Honor, Love & Fear:

## 3. Fear God:

(a.) Fear = *phobeō* = Reverential respect and AWE

(b.) Remember the role of Government had the homonym(?) to this: **terror and dread**

(c.) Imperative No. 3: Present, *middle*, imperative command. *Middle voice: you are interested in fearing God for yourself, you are concerned with the outcome of the action.*

**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;  
Fools despise wisdom and instruction.** Prov 1:7. [Note: again the connection to foolish, ignorant men in 1 Pet. 2:15....}

(d.) Anyone who has ever swam, or been near a great whale knows what fear is. It's strange and unnerving. It is fascinating to think, "This huge thing has no malice towards me, no desire to eat me and no fear of me that it would want to attack me; but the very hugeness of it is, in some way, frightening. I sometimes wonder if this is the awe and respect that is due God. [BRAD MATSON, FORT COLLINS BIBLE CHURCH]



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## Verse 17: Honor, Love & Fear:

### 4. Honor the King: Sums up our responsibility under Government Authority

(a.) Honor = *timaō* = again. This is imperative No. 4 of this verse, (Present, Active, Imperative)

(b.) We are brought back here to Verse 13's 'submit' to those in authority.. Governors, kings, etc.

(c.) If we as citizens DO RIGHT/GOOD by Government by:

[1] keeping the attitude and mindset of submission to governing authorities (vs. 13), and we honor that governing authority (vs. 17),

[2] Government **should**- by its authority derived from God- offer its praise and commendation to us

Remember: **Purpose I** of Government: Punish/terrorize evil and evildoers. (Government's responsibility)

**Purpose II** of Government: The praise of those who DO RIGHT (Government's responsibility)

Our responsibility: Submit, Do Right, and honor authority to win hearts and minds for Christ Jesus. . . .